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Date of Deposit: June 16, 2006

Our Case No. 5404/154

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Minoru Kuroda et al. )  
International Serial No. ) Examiner: Not Assigned  
PCT/JP2004/019726 ) Group Art Unit: Not Assigned  
U.S. Serial No.: Applied for )  
International Filing Date: December 24, )  
2004 )  
U.S. Filing Date: Herewith )  
Title: STEP PILE FABRIC AND )  
PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THE )  
SAME )

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows: